

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06957 262255Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
-----262336Z 001840 /75

R 260825Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO COMIDEASTFOR
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4289
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6957

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OCLR
SUBJ: USS LASALLE TURNOVER IN SUEZ

REF: (A) CAIRO 6869 (NOTAL),
(B) COMIDEASTFOR R 221128Z APR 77 (NOTAL)

1. AT FAHMY LUNCHEON FOR VISITING UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, APRIL 25, I SAT NEXT TO GAMASY AND HAD LONG CONVERSATION WITH HIM ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS, INCLUDING US NAVAL VISITS TO EGYPTIAN PORTS. SINCE GAMASY WAS IN A FORTHCOMING MOOD, I DECIDED IT WOULD BE OPPORTUNE TO QUERY WHETHER IT WOULD GIVE HIM PROBLEMS IF COMIDEASTFOR TURNOVER TOOK PLACE AT SUEZ IN JULY. GAMASY QUIZZED ME WHETHER WE HAVE IN MIND SUEZ, HURGADA, OR SAFAGA. I TOLD HIM THAT, SUBJECT TO GOE'S APPROVAL, WE HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT SUEZ, NOT ANY OTHER EGYPTIAN RED SEA PORT. I EXPLAINED TO HIM COMIDEASTFOR TURNOVER PROBLEMS IN THE RED SEA/INDIAN OCEAN AREA AND NOTED SOME PREVIOUS TURNOVERS HAD TAKEN PLACE AT SAUDI, SUDANESE AND OTHER ARAB PORTS. COMIDEASTFOR, AS HE DOUBTLESS KNEW, IS BASED ON BAHREIN.

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2. AFTER CONSULTING WITH FAHMY, GAMASY FINALLY SAID HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO PROPOSED TURNOVER AT SUEZ IN JULY. HE WISHED US TO KNOW, THAT ANY REQUESTS FOR US NAVAL VISITS TO OTHER EGYPTIAN RED SEA PORTS, SUCH AS HURGADA OR SAFAGA, WOULD GIVE HIM PROBLEMS AND WOULD BE REFUSED. THESE ARE STILL MILITARY AREAS.

3. GAMASY ASKED THAT I NOTIFY HIM NEARER TO THE EVENT OF EXACT DATES AND DETAILS OF WHAT IS INVOLVED IN TURNOVER AND THEREAFTER REQUEST FORMAL DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE THROUGH NORMAL MFA CHANNELS. UNLESS SOMETHING COMES UP THAT MAKES IT IMPRACTICAL TO DO SO, HE PROMISED TO APPROVE SUCH A REQUEST.

4. FOR CINCUSNAVEUR: I DELIBERATELY DID NOT RAISE WITH HIM WHETHER GOE WILL CHARGE TURNOVER AGAINST ONE OF THE EIGHT NAVAL VISITS TO EGYPTIAN PORTS THAT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON. I BELIEVE IT BEST TO PLAY THIS BY EAR WHEN THE TIME COMES.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LASALLE USS, NAVAL SHIPS, PORT CALLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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